

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted to supplement the amendment filed October 7, 2009, and the § 1.132 Declaration of Jennifer Victoria Davies filed November 16, 2009. For reasons discussed below, Claims 1 and 21 have been amended, Claims 2, 10-20, and 29-33 have been canceled, and new Claims 34-40 have been added. Claims 1, 3-9, 21-28, and 34-40 are thus now pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request entry of this supplemental amendment and consideration of the pending claims.

Interview Summary

This supplemental amendment is submitted pursuant to a telephone interview conducted February 26, 2010, between the undersigned counsel and Examiner Rangrej. During the interview, it was determined that amending Claims 1 and 21 to incorporate subject matter that was previously presented in Claim 2 would place Claims 1 and 21 and their dependent claims in allowable condition. While applicants believe that Claims 1 and 21 and their dependent claims already recited features that patentably distinguished the claimed invention over the prior art, applicants desire to advance the prosecution of the present application and therefore have amended Claims 1 and 21 accordingly. To avoid redundancy, Claim 2 has been canceled.

Further, during the interview, the examiner asked applicants to cancel Claims 10, 15, and 29 and their dependent claims on the basis that these claims are directed to an invention that is independent and distinct from the invention in Claims 1 and 21 and their dependent claims. Applicants were assured that they could present the canceled subject matter in one or more divisional patent applications. Accordingly, to advance prosecution of the present application, applicants have canceled Claims 10-20 and 29-33 without prejudice to filing said claims in a divisional application.

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Lastly, during the interview, it was proposed that applicants would submit a new set of method claims having a scope of coverage similar to Claims 21-28. Accordingly, applicants submit herewith new Claims 34-40. It is applicants' understanding that these claims are in allowable condition for at least the same reasons as Claims 21-28.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons explained above and for the reasons discussed in applicants' October 7, 2009, amendment, applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicants, therefore, request examination of the pending claims and the issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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